Procurement of Foodgrains

1071. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement of wheat and rice made by the Government against the targets set therefor during 1995-96;

(b) the latest estimated availability of foodgrains in the country;

(c) whether in view of the sufficient growth of foodgrains the Government have agree to release more wheat and rice to States for distribution through fair price shops;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantity of wheat and rice released for export during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Wheat and paddy are procured for Central Pool under minimum price support scheme on a totally voluntary basis. Rice is procured under a system of statutory levy imposed on rice millers and traders. The quantum of levy rice collected in turn depends on the quantity of paddy purchased by the millers. No target for procurement of wheat and rice can thus be fixed.

A quantity of 81.35 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 1.7.1996 during the current Rabi Marketing Season 1996-97 as compared with 122.05 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year. The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) for the Central Pool has been 97.33 lakh tonnes as on 1.7.1996 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 1995-96 as compared with 130.80 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year.

(b) Estimated stock of foodgrains (wheat and rice) held on Central and States account as on 1.6.1996 is of the order of 292 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d). Allotment of wheat and rice for PDS/RPDS to States/UTs has gone up from 21.5 million tonnes in 1993-94 to 25.5 million tonnes in 1995-96.

(e) Quantity of wheat and rice sold by FCI for export is as under :

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice
1995-96	0.81	14.82
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	3.29	0.06

[Translation]

Procurement and selling Price of Wheat and Rice

1072. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Farm prices going out of Government control" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated April 29, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due to the increasing economic cost of Food Corporation of India (FCI) there is a big difference between the procurement and selling prices of wheat and rice in the country;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard,

(d) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to reduce the economic cost of FCI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The table below indicates (i) the Economic cost, and (ii) the Central Issue Prices i.e. the Selling price of wheat and rice through P.D.S. since 1994-95.

(Rs./quintal)

	1994-95		1995-96 (RE)		1996-97 (BE)	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Economic Cost comprising :	551.17	694.71	563.57	746.72	582.17	773.49
(a) Acquisition cost (i.e. pooled cost+procurement incidentals)	445.66	595.90	460.38	637.58	468.34	664.95
(b) Distribution cost (i.e. freight, handling, storage, interest etc)	105.51	98.81	103.19	109.14	113.83	108.54

	1	2	3	4	5	6
II. Central Issue Prices (PDS) (w.e.f. 01.2.94)						
Wheat	402/-		402/-		402/-	
Rice						
Common	537/-		537/-		537/-	
Fine	617/-		617/-		617/-	
Superfine	648/-		648/-		648/-	

It will be seen from the table that while the Economic cost has increased mainly because of increase in the pooled cost of grains as a result of increases in M.S.P/ naked cost of grains, the selling price i.e. the C.I.P. has not been increased since 01.2.94.

(d) and (e). The following important steps have been taken/are being taken by the FCI to reduce/contain its economic cost :

(i) The Corporation has set the target of achieving average capacity utilisation of 75% even though the procurement of grain is seasonal.

(ii) The procurement and movement ratio is being adhered to the norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by Government of India to reduce the expenditure in freight.

(iii) Vacant entry level posts are not filled up except in exceptional circumstances, to reduce the administrative cost and increase productivity.

(iv) Continuous efforts are being made to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains.

(v) Release of stocks in the open market at prices above the C.I.P.

Development of Tribals

1073. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that for the development of tribal dominated areas projects are formulated for different regions on the basis of different policies at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria for making distinctions among various regions and the need of making such distinctions?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Excepting Tribal Majority States/UTs, the Tribal Development Projects namely Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs)/ Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) pockets under Modified Area Development Approach (MADAs) and Clusters have been delineated in States/UTs under TSP strategy for the development of tribal dominated areas.

(b) Broadly, ITDPs/ITDAs have been delineated in talukas/tehsils, blocks with 50% tribal concentration in addition to the Scheduled Areas. Modified Area Development Approach (MADAs) has been adopted to cover smaller areas of tribal concentration having 10,000 population and of which 50% or more are tribals. Clusters have been identified to cover areas having total population of at least 5000 and above with a Scheduled Tribe concentration of 50% or more.

[English]

Women Labour Cells

1074. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women labour cells at present functioning in Assam with their locations; and

(b) the details of achievements of those women labour cells since their inception?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) According to the information received from the State Government, no women labour cell is functioning in the State of Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

New Sugar Mills

1075. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new sugar mills in the country during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the places have been identified for the setting up of these new sugar mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). The Central Government does not set up